

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 08503 051931Z

20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 (ISO) W

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R 051912Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8151

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 08503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS MAY 5 AND 19

REF: PARIS 8252 AND 8378

1. FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING, FRENCH MINISTER OF INFORMATION LECAT ANNOUNCED THAT FIRST ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD MAY 5. SECOND ROUND WOULD THUS TAKE PLACE MAY 19.

2. LATER OF TWO POSSIBLE FIRST-ROUND DATES WAS SELECTED, ACCORDING TO LECAT, FROM PURELY MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND WITH VIEW TOWARD PROPER DIGNITY OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

3. COMMENT: LATEST RUMORS HAD GOVERNMENT FAVORING EARLIER FIRST-ROUND DATE (APRIL 28) AS LIKELY TO IMPROVE MAJORITY'S CHANCES BY GIVING LEFT LESS TIME TO PREPARE, AND BY CAPITALIZING ON PUBLIC SHOCK AND SENSE OF LOSS OVER POMPIDOU'S SUDDEN DEATH. AT MOMENT, HOWEVER, MAJORITY IS SHOWING OBVIOUS STRAINS, WITH MESSMER SUPPORTERS AND GISCARD D'ESTAING SUPPORTERS MANEUVERING BEHIND SCENES AGAINST CHABAN-DELMAS, AND WITH FAURE'S CANDIDACY POSING ADDITIONAL COMPLICATIONS. LATER DATE WILL THUS PROVIDE MAJORITY PARTIES WITH SLIGHTLY MORE TIME
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TO PUT THEIR OWN ELECTORAL HOUSES IN ORDER.

IRWIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

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